

it is here, I think, that the shrub first started. It must be evident to any careful observer that *Magnolia glauca* is struggling here in an unnatural climate. The primary roots grow straight down into the muck, and in the fall are thickly covered with rootlets, snowy white in color. In the spring these rootlets are mostly dead, and a greater part of young shoots die down to the moss, and a certain per cent of the old plants are winter-killed, which indicates that there is no harmony between shrub and climate."

Mr. Walter Deane has given me the following letter from Mr. C. E. Faxon which shows the condition of the swamp in the summer of 1913.

April 17, 1916.

Dear Mr. Deane:

I have just found in Garden and Forest an interesting letter from Mr. Fuller giving a marginal note from Judge Davis's copy of Bigelow's Plants of Boston. . . . When I first visited the swamp some 45 years ago there were plenty of good specimens all about, sometimes 15 feet tall or more. It was easy to find them, as the boys who sold the flowers on the Boston trains had made trails from one plant to another all over the swamp.

When I visited the place with Dr. Kennedy two years ago we found with the aid of the Tree Warden of the town, only two little plants a few feet high that had escaped the Magnolia hunters — such had been the destruction!

Yours faithfully,

C. E. FAXON.

From this it is plainly evident that unless some prompt measures are taken for its safety we shall very soon have seen the last of this delightful flower in our Massachusetts flora.

READVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS.

AN EARLY FLOWERING OF *RUDBECKIA HIRTA*.— On April 25, 1916, I discovered on the campus of the Massachusetts Agricultural College a plant of *Rudbeckia hirta* (Black-eyed Susan) in bloom. It had a very short stem and was found in an exposed, sunny situation on a slope. Gray gives the time of blooming of this species as from June to September.— WILLIAM S. COLEY, Massachusetts Agricultural College, Amherst, Massachusetts.